

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Applicants have submitted herewith Replacement Sheets 1-3 showing the proposed amendments to the drawings adding labels to the boxes in Figures 1-3. As this information comes directly from the specification, no new matter has been added.

The Examiner has also objected to the drawings for failing to illustrate the steps recited in claim 20. The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to page 22, lines 20-29 wherein the "acknowledgement message 116" is described. These communication steps are illustrated in Figure 2. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully solicited.

With respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, Applicants have amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, in view of their indicated allowability, claims 1-8 are believed to be in condition for allowance.


Additionally, Applicants have rewritten allowable claims 11 and 18 in independent form and changed the dependencies of claims 13, 17, 19 and 20 to depend from amended claim 11. Accordingly, claims 11-20 are also now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Finally, claim 21, which stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nixon et al, No. 6,098,116, has been amended to include the allowable subject matter from claim 11. In addition, claim 21 has been further amended in a manner believed to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112. Accordingly, claim 21 is also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the drawings as shown in Replacement Sheets 1-3.